

**St. Margaret Mary Parish
Pastoral Council Minutes
May 3, 2005**

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|-------------------------|---|---|---|
| Members Present: | Harry Dubnick Dick Backer Lane Epstein Fr. Bill O'Shea | Mike Prus Chuck Marquis Judy Thalmann | Mark Oliphant Josephine Lewis Sr. Madelyn Gould |
| Also Attending: | Micki Lewis | Les Gehrke | Bill Hassett |
| Not Present: | Fr. Dan Hessling Mary Runger | Matt Johnson Fr. Danny Soriano | Mike Pettinger Dick Henke |
| Opening Prayer: | Chuck Marquis | | |

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the April 5 and April 14 meetings were approved without changes.

Discussion Items

A. Wish Group #1 Update

Micki Lewis and Les Gehrke from Envision Results gave a presentation on Appreciative Inquiry, which is a process that refocuses negative interactions to bring about positive results.

Wish Group #1 members are struggling with their goal formation and feel that a process such as Appreciative Inquiry could help them move forward.

B. Wish Group #2 Update

They continue to gather goals from the parish's major groups. There is a feeling of pride and energy with the process. Commissions and staff members either have already completed their goals or will complete them in May. They are all due (including Council's) by Council's June meeting. Matt will prepare the goals for Council.

C. Wish Group #3 Update

Harry will prepare last fall's survey results for the bulletin.

D. Capital Campaign Update

Those who have been part of the capital campaign's parishioner-to-parishioner process have worked very hard over the past several months and collected over \$500,000, bringing the new total to \$3,000,000+. This figure is recognizably impressive and there is more work to do. The group will continue to look for additional funds from selected groups of parishioners - those who originally declined a donation (with a follow-up letter from Fr. Bill), those who gave a significant one-time gift, the most generous donors, and those who have recently joined our parish.

Donations continue at approximately the same rate of contribution selection with 44% for parish expansion, 28% for ASCA and 28% unrestricted funds. \$1,300,000 of the pledged funds has been collected.

STA and SES have a combined capital campaign total to date of \$800,000.

Council members sincerely thank the parishioner-to-parishioner committee members who diligently continue with this process.

E. All Saints Catholic Academy Update

At this time 300 students have registered for the school.

F. Pastoral Council Discernment

The discernment process took place last month for Council member selection. Paul Weineweth and Gary Skarr are the new at-large members. It was felt that the discernment process went well. Minor changes will be made for next year.

Josephine sent an email to the "Back Row Catholic" who sent Council an email disagreeing with the new discernment process for Council member selection, responding with an accumulation of suggestions from Council members.

G. Pastoral Council/Staff Day Topic Selection

Council members agreed that the Wish Group process that began at last year's PC/Staff Day should continue. Sr. Madelyn, Josephine and Chuck will form the committee to organize the details for this day and Al and John will lead the presentations. They are trained in the Appreciative Inquiry process that was presented tonight and will incorporate the process during the day. Micki and Les are also available if desired.

H. Budget Discussion

Bill Hassett presented the proposed 2006 budget. Discussions from previous Council and Commission meetings have been incorporated into the new budget, and a concerted effort has been made to reduce expenses within the groups and to increase revenue if possible.

The Repair and Replacement Report will be reviewed this year. Some of the major capital expenditures that will be needed in the near future include a new copier for the Religious Education office, carpet replacement in the worship center and major roof repair.

Topics that were further discussed included professional services through the Worship Commission (cantors and musicians), Council's budget, and Charitable Contributions (how the contributions should be benchmarked in the future and what additional cuts could be made).

- The budget for Council will be cut at least \$300 - a decrease of \$200 in Appreciation for members who are leaving and at least \$100 in workshop expenses.
- Worship Commission members have discussed the suggested reduction for professional musical services. They feel that we have a history of paying these individuals and our high quality of liturgy is a very positive part of our parish. They are concerned that if there is a reduction in payment there will be a reduction in services. If there is a reduction in services there may be a reduction in contributions since this is such a vibrant part of our worship. Consensus was reached that Worship Commission's budget will remain as proposed by the Finance Committee.
- It was suggested that we should take out Easter and Christmas contributions when the percentage of Charitable Contributions and School Scholarship are calculated. At this point, cuts were made for both of these budget items (Charitable Contributions and School Scholarships) and a new policy will be established at a future date.

The budget, once reductions are made to Council's line items, will be presented to parishioners at the Town Hall Meetings (May 16 and June 6) then presented for approval at the June 7 Council meeting.

I. Plans for Town Hall Meetings

The budget will be the major topic of discussion for these identically presented meetings on May 16 and June 6. Josephine will contact Mary Straub for mass announcements and Harry will contact Mary for bulletin announcements. Matt, Harry and Chuck will coordinate these meetings with assistance from other Council members. It is requested that each of the Commissions provide lists of achievements over the previous year to include as handouts.

J. Diocesan Assembly

Josephine gave a summary of the Diocesan Assembly that was held last month.

It is important that laity members continue to be informed of what is going on in the church because this is the group that will continue to take on more responsibilities in future years.

When qualities of parishes were compared, our parish comes out as 'very good', with continued room for improvement.

Commission Reports

Administration Commission

They discussed the fire risks in our building, focusing on lighting fixtures. The Ministry Fair will be held May 21/22 (Josephine will 'man' the table for Council). All groups need to contact Mike if they want a table for this weekend. Mike reminded groups to be sure and contact people who fill out the volunteer interest forms as soon as possible (within a week) to ensure follow-up reliability that is so important.

Christian Education

They are reviewing the results of their surveys. Following through with comments given on the surveys, Candy will begin publishing a newsletter 4 times a year in an effort to involve and inform parents with Youth Ministry activities. There were three First Communion and 2 Confirmations over the past two weeks and they all went well. They have written their goals for the year. The Protecting God's Children program has been reformatted and will be presented to the children next year. Threads is taking place this month and it is hoped that registration will pick up.

Christian Service

Goals will be written this month. Pat McAuliffe will be the group's chairperson and Rick Weller will be Council's representative.

Christian Worship

There have been several bulletin announcements recently on how we can accommodate wheelchairs because several people were making comments. So far there has been no feedback. There was a discussion about signs that are displayed in the worship center/narthex area, and what displays need Worship Commission approval.

Youth Representative

No report.

Final Whip Around

Good meeting. Be sure to send commission summaries for the Town Hall Meeting. Josephine suggested that incoming members are not solicited for positions on Council, including Secretary, since it would be better to have experience on Council before any position is taken.

Closing prayer

Meeting adjourned 10:50

New/Continuing Action Items:

| Person Assigned | Date of Origin | Item Description | Due Date |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--|----------|
| Matt | 3/1/05 | Write goals for Council | ASAP |
| Harry | 1/4/05 | Prepare survey comments/results for bulletin | ASAP |
| Commission Members | 5/3/05 | Prepare summary of achievements over prior year to use as handout for Town Hall Meetings | 5/10/05 |
| Matt, Chuck and Harry | 5/3/05 | Coordinate Town Hall Meetings | 5/16/05 |
| Sr. Madelyn, Chuck, Josephine | 5/3/05 | Coordinate PC/Staff Day | 6/7/05 |

Completed Action Items:

| Person Assigned | Date of Origin | Item Description | Due Date |
|-------------------|----------------|--|----------|
| Finance Committee | 4/5/05 | Present revised budget for Council's discussion. | 4/14/05 |

Refreshments/Prayer June 7 Matt/Katrina

Respectfully submitted by Katrina Meder